

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08726.0018.00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Frank W. RATLIFF) Confirmation No. 3739
)
Application No.: 10/617,693) Group Art Unit: 3744
)
Filed: July 14, 2003) Examiner: C. Jiang
)
For: HEAT PUMP SYSTEM)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a final Office Action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee payment of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

In accordance with the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) provided in 1273 OG 55 for patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and published U.S. applications cited on the attached 1449 form are not submitted with this Statement.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Patent Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee payment due in connection with the filing of this Statement in addition to the fee payment included herewith, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

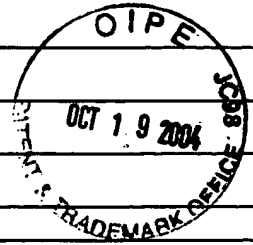
Dated: October 19, 2004

By: 

Roland G. McAndrews
Reg. No. 41,450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	08726.0018.00000	Application No.	10/617,693
Applicant	Frank W. RATLIFF		
Filing Date	July 14, 2003	Group:	3744



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	2,637,981	05/1953	Russell			
	2,986,907	06/1961	Hoop			
	3,411,538	11/1968	Gruner et al.			
	3,823,573	07/1974	Cassady			
	3,861,166	01/1975	Goldsberry			
	4,018,581	04/1977	Ruff et al.			
	4,080,801	03/1978	Post			
	4,226,091	10/1980	Nowacki			
	4,226,606	10/1980	Yaeger et al.			
	4,250,715	02/1981	Ratliff			
	4,266,404	05/1981	EIDifrawi			
	4,383,418	05/1983	Holzer			
	RE 31,281	06/1983	Swenson et al.			
	4,537,037	08/1985	Clark, Jr.			
	4,580,414	04/1986	Engelhard			
	4,617,801	10/1986	Clark, Jr.			
	4,727,727	03/1988	Reedy			
	4,779,427	10/1988	Rowley et al.			
	4,793,153	12/1988	Hembree et al.			
	4,823,560	04/1989	Rowley et al.			
	5,336,059	08/1994	Rowley			
	6,094,926	08/2000	Nakayama et al.			
	6,164,331	12/2000	Sugita et al.			

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	